[XXIVth Year.] THE [No. 1244.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1780.

To the PEOPLE of MARYLAND.

I CONSIDER the freedom of the preſs as one of the greateſt bulwarks of the liberties of a people; and, happily for this ſtate, it is ſecured by an article in the declaration of rights. I muſt confeſs, this freedom is apt to degenerate into an extreme; the moſt reſpectable characters are ſometimes traduced; the ſolemn deliberations of public bodies are exhibited in unfavourable lights, and the baſeſt of motives imputed to the worthieſt of men. Theſe are inconveniences, which every enlightened mind will eaſily ſubmit to, when he reflects, what a powerful check this liberty exerts on the public and private conduct of every individual, who ſpeaks at all the opinions of the world. I have had the honour to experience the little malice of writers; but am ſo far from wiſhing to deſtroy, or abridge this invaluable right of free citizens, that I would as ſoon renounce the trial by jury.

The grand buſineſs of the preſent ſeſſion of aſſembly is to comply with the ſeveral requiſitions of congreſs. If we are really concerned in the common cauſe, if we are alarmed by the ſtate of our finances, if we are fully impreſſed with an idea of the neceſſity of oppoſing the enemy in the field, there needs no argument to induce honeſt men, and true whigs, to make the moſt vigorous exertions, for raiſing the ſupplies of money and men. That mode, which is eaſieſt, and moſt conſiſtent with our intereſts, ſafety, and liberty, muſt be adopted.

It is with amuſement, that I ſee intelligent men ſo readily accede to the ſtale, pernicious, ſyſtems of borrowing. The man, who would rather borrow upon intereſt, to defray his neceſſary expences, than call upon thoſe, who hold his money on truſt, would be reckoned a madman, unleſs he were influenced by friendſhip to his truſtees; and convinced, that it would greatly diſtreſs them to furniſh an immediate ſupply. Should not the legiſlature be guilty of equal folly, by preferring loans to taxes? I am ſanguine enough to believe, that, if the reſolutions of congreſs are every where acceded to, the bills of credit will ſpeedily appreciate. ſuppoſing even this to be the caſe, it is ſufficiently clear, that the nation would be leſs burthenſome now than hereafter.

I am appriſed of the mighty expectations which are built upon the plan for confiſcation. I am convinced of the expediency, the policy, and the equity of the meaſure; ſtill it remains a doubt, whether the two branches of the legiſlature will ever coincide, upon this ſubject: but ſuppoſe they ſhould, does any one imagine, that the whole property will be a fund ſufficient to diſcharge our debts, and to ſuperſede the neceſſity of taxes? Taxation, therefore, muſt, at ſome time, take place: by loans we anticipate and balance them; and the ſtriking example of Great-Britain alone might inſtruct us to avoid the evil.

I have argued, upon a ſuppoſition, that the neceſſary ſums might be raiſed by loans. I am perſuaded they could not. He that makes a practice of borrowing, and conſtantly fails to perform his contract, will at length find, that nobody will truſt him. To tell his creditor, that he is not able to pay him; that he has money in the hands of a friend, but does not care to call upon him at preſent, and that he is under the neceſſity of ſoliciting the favour of a further loan, would only diſguſt or irritate; and I leave it to my readers to apply the remark.

It is a melancholy truth, that, in ſome neighbouring ſtates, the repreſentatives of the people, being elected for a ſhort term, are afraid to diſoblige their conſtituents, who are ſeldom pleaſed with the impoſition of burthens. They will purſue any ſcheme that is not attended with an immediate inconvenience, although, in the opinion of thinking men, it may be productive of the moſt frightful, diſtant, conſequences. Of the maxims which every man ſhould lay down for the conduct through life, this ought to be one; never to continue in a ſtation, where he conceives a neceſſity for ſacrificing his own judgment, and the intereſts of his country, to greatly the few, imperious, ſpirits, or an ignorant, miſjudging multitude.

If our quota of men cannot be completed by voluntary enliſtments, a draught is the only reſource. A thouſand conſiderations ſhould determine us, by all honeſt means, to avoid the meaſure; the bare holding forth the idea impedes recruiting; as the man who is inclined to enter the ſervice, may delay it, with the certain proſpect of a much larger reward, when the draught comes on, and the timid, the diſaffected, and the infirm, muſt procure ſubſtitutes at any rate.

I cannot think it equitable, to force into the ſervice thoſe, who may unfortunately fall within any deſcription of a vagabond. It is repugnant to the principles of a republic, which "is inſtituted ſolely for the good of the whole," and ſhould confer equal liberty on all. If bounties, rewards, privileges, are dealt out with a liberal hand, there is no reaſon to fear, that we ſhall be obliged to reſort to a draught. Nothing but an injudicious parſimony will impel us to ſo diſguſtful, degrading, a meaſure.

A draught may be called fair and honeſt, becauſe every one ſtands an equal chance; but a man not actuated by the ſpirit of gaming, would prefer paying a tenth part of the price of a ſubſtitute to the ſtanding an equal chance with nine others, for paying the whole. Where a certain proportion has been required, I have been told that a company, to avoid a draught, has agreed to a contribution. This was to all intents a tax, and a very unequal one; for thoſe above the age of fifty were exempt by law, and each man did not contribute, according to his property. To complete the abſurdity, it was merely to ſpare taxes, that the legiſlature had recourſe to a draught.

Notwithſtanding "the near approach of harveſt," and the importance of the two main objects, which ſolicit their attention, the legiſlature is under indiſpenſable obligations to beſtow ſome little conſideration on the civil liſt. I would not inſinuate, that the officers of government have been ſolely influenced by the love of their country, and that this pure principle induced them to ſacrifice their time, their fortunes, and their families; my obſervation informs me, there are few ſuch exalted ſpirits to be met with, in theſe degenerate days; nor do I conceive, the public would deſerve their ſervices, if it required them on ſuch unreaſonable terms. The truth is, they have from time to time been ſeduced by the fond expectation of future adequate proviſion. It is the ſentiment of a celebrated poet, that "hope ſprings eternal in the human breaſt," but frequent diſappointments teach mankind to change their objects. I would therefore have gentlemen reflect ſeriouſly, whether government is neceſſary, whether it can be executed without officers, and whether they can expect, any longer, to be ſerved on the ſame ruinous terms. If government is neceſſary for our ſafety and happineſs, if thoſe to whom its powers are delegated, muſt be ſupported at the expence of the whole, the only queſtion that remains is, what compenſation will procure the ſervices of gentlemen qualified to fill important ſtations?

The ſtate of Maryland is a genuine republic. It is not requiſite, that the ſame ſplendor and magnificence ſhould be exhibited by its magiſtrates, as in a monarchy, where that very ſplendor and magnificence, in part, conſtitute the baſis of their authority. It is not agreeable to freemen, that the influence of wealth ſhould conſpire with the authority of office to raiſe any man above the perfect equality, which they all enjoy as citizens; this conſideration may perhaps inſpire the legiſlature with extreme caution in the article of ſalaries; they remember the pride, the inſolence, the domineering of officers under the old government; they are determined to guard againſt the evil, and, in my opinion, there is great danger, if they perſiſt in their mode of preventing it, that it will draw upon them a much greater. That men, whoſe abilities qualify them to accumulate wealth by other purſuits, will deſert them, and that worthleſs characters will hereafter preſide in every department.

Thoſe, therefore, who fill the higheſt ſtations, and devote their time and abilities to the public, muſt be ſupported in a liberal manner. Some of them came in under the faith of the conſtitution. A decency in appearance, a degree of hoſpitality, is neceſſary to procure them reſpect, without which their authority cannot be maintained, eſpecially in times, when the ſucceſsful arts of ſpeculation furniſh ſo many perſons with the means of luxury.

It would be abſurd to eſtimate the value of a ſervice, by the time it employs, particularly if the office is incompatible with any other means of livelihood. We deal not thus in the common affairs of life. The labourer, who performs a work, that requires nothing more than bodily ſtrength, muſt toil all day for a trifling reward; but the painter, who diſplays the wonders of an art, that few men, with the cloſeſt application, have capacities for attaining, receives an hundred fold. Employments, which require nothing more than the ordinary abilities of a clerk, muſt not be conſidered of equal importance with thoſe, on the right execution of which ſo greatly depend our property, our lives, and our liberties; and which demand experience, knowledge, judgment, firmneſs, integrity. It is needleſs to remark, with what eaſe we can point out men to diſcharge the former; and how few men are bleſſed with the rare qualities and attainments, requiſite for diſcharging the latter.

In ſhort, in the eſtabliſhment of ſalaries, theſe points muſt be aſcertained; What are the neceſſary qualifications? What is the importance of the office? What is a compenſation? And how much will enable each man to ſupport his family according to his reſpective rank and dignity?

A REPUBLICAN.

June 14, 1780.

PHILADELPHIA, June 7.

ON the 22d of laſt month, left Sandy-Hook, under convoy of the Thames frigate, ſeveral tranſports, with three Heſſian regiments on board, bound for Quebec.

Since our laſt arrived here twenty-odd ſail of veſſels from different ports in the Weſt-Indies, with rum, ſugar, ſalt, coffee and dry goods.

Captain Truxton took and brought in with him the brig Clyde, captain Fletcher, with 130 hogſheads of rum on board; ſhe was bound from Tortola for New-York.

Captain Gardener has retaken the ſchooner Willing Maid, which was captured in Cheſapeake, by refugee Thompſon.

Captain Ogleby, in the ſchooner Betſey, informs, that in lat. 23, he ſpoke the ſchooner True Blue, Captain Stephenſon, all well; and in lat. 29, long. 69, he ſaw a fleet of 40 ſail, under convoy of four men of war, which he ſuppoſes was a Jamaica fleet of merchantmen bound to England.

Extract of a letter from a port in Spain, dated March 10.

"The admirals Lockhart and Digby, met the Spaniſh admiral Langara the 17th day of January with eight ſhips of the line. The Engliſh admirals had twenty-two. They took four of the Spaniſh ſhips and one was blown up. The Spaniards made a ſurpriſing reſiſtance and eſcaped with three, and one from St. Sebaſtian to Cadiz in a ſhattered condition.

"The Engliſh got proviſions, &c. into Gibraltar, and retired immediately for fear of Graſton's ſquadron. It is ſaid the French ſquadron is out to meet them on their return. The ſiege of Gibraltar is continued with more ſpirit than ever, and there is now forty ſhips of the line almoſt ready for ſea in Cadiz."

Extract of a letter from an eminent houſe, dated at St. Pierre, Martinico, April 23, 1780.

"We have reaſon to believe that an action has happened in theſe ſeas, between the French fleet, under the command of Monſ. de Guichen, and that of the Engliſh, under the command of admiral Rodney, though no certain accounts have yet come to hand.

"The French ſquadron weighed anchor, and came out of Fort Royal bay the 13th inſt. conſiſting of twenty-two ſhips of the line and five frigates, having between five and ſix thouſand troops on board, under the command of his excellency, the marquis de Bouille, in order to make a deſcent upon one of the Engliſh iſlands, but it is not certain which. This day week (the 16th inſt.) the Engliſh fleet made their appear-

ance in front of this town, consisting of twenty-one ships of the line, five frigates and a tender, and continued hovering within a little distance of this place all that day. About five o'clock in the afternoon, the French squadron (which we imagine had fallen to leeward, and had not been able to reach the object of their destination) hove in sight, and appeared to be beating up towards Dominique channels, the English immediately gave them chace, and the French made a manœuvre, as if with a design to get to windward of the enemy; night coming on, we lost sight of them, and have received no account of their operations, until this morning.

"The captain of a pilot boat, that arrived here last night from St. Eustatius, says, that he touched at Guadaloupe, on his passage up to this place, where the French were landing their sick and wounded men; that he went on board the fleet, and was informed by some of the officers, that they had three different engagements with the enemy; that the English fleet ran away twice, but afterwards renewed the action, but were finally beaten and routed in the third conflict, and never appeared in sight afterwards. He also says, that he was informed by some of the officers of the French fleet, that they imagined admiral Rodney was killed in one of the actions, as they saw the admiral's flag struck on board his ship, the Sandwich of 90 guns, and that it was not displayed afterwards."

BALTIMORE, *June* 13.

Lieutenant colonel Ternant passed through this town, yesterday, with dispatches for congress, which contain the surrender of Charlestown. It took place on the 12th of May last. The siege was conducted by the enemy with great vigour, and their third parallel line carried within a few yards of our works. The garrison were several days without provisions before the capitulation was completed. Too much cannot be said in praise of the defence. The place was held till longer resistance would have been mere madness, nor could further resistance have answered any good purpose. The enemy had open batteries for 34 days, during which time the garrison sustained a continual cannonade, bombardment, and fire of musquetry, which was returned on their part with great spirit. We lost in killed and wounded about 300, and capitulated with about 1800 regular troops. The terms of capitulation are very honourable, such as the troops of the greatest nation need not be ashamed of. The property of the citizens are secured: the militia return home on parole. The regular troops had every military honour stipulated: the officers allowed their horses, baggage, and side-arms.

We are assured that the British army suffered greatly during the siege of Charles-town, their whole loss being estimated at 2000—Some perished by the sword, some fell victims to fatigue and disease, and others judged it prudent to run away.

ANNAPOLIS, *June* 16.

Extract of a letter from Morris-town, June 9.

"The day before yesterday the enemy came out from New-York, via Staten-Island, and landed at Elizabeth-town, about 5000—Our army all moved to meet them: the militia turned out with great spirit—skirmishing in abundance; one militia captain with 4 men took 16 British. It is said the enemy intended for this town:—They have been between Connecticut farms and Springfield, and burnt every house in the former except one:—They have been drove back to Elizabeth-town point, where they lie behind our old entrenchments:—Our army is at the Short Hills on this side Springfield. The militia are near the enemy and keep a constant popping at them.—I believe New-York is very bare of troops. The tories were so sure of the enemy's succeeding, that they sent word to their friends at Elizabeth-town that they should pay them a visit the day after the enemy came over:—They are baulked—the affair is not settled yet. Mr. Ludwig, of Philadelphia, and baker general of the army, was in the action, and took a prisoner."

Charles county, June 5, 1780.

To be LET for a term, or the fishing season, THREE good landings, at Pomonkey, on Patowmack river, where large seines may be worked, and great quantities of shads and herrings taken in the proper season. There is a good house at each landing, which are all noted as good and convenient fisheries. For terms apply at the place to

RICHARD BRANDT.

aw 1

Annapolis, June 15, 1780.

FOR SALE,

A QUANTITY of very old BARBADOS and DEMARA SPIRIT, by

1 5w JAMES WILLIAMS.

WHEREAS a commission issued from Montgomery county court, at the instance of Messrs. George and Thomas Beall, sons of the late colonel George Beall, empowering us the subscribers to examine evidences to prove and perpetuate the memory of the bounds of a tract of land lying in the county aforesaid, named the Rock of Dumbarton: We do give this public notice, that in obedience to the said commission, we purpose to meet on said land on Monday the thirty-first day of July next, to examine upon oath all evidences that shall be nominated or offered to us concerning their knowledge of the bounds of said land. Witness our hands, this 3d day of June, 1780.

ANDREW HEUGH,
BENJAMIN BECRAFT, jun.
3w THOMAS M'CUBBIN,
AARON ANRAM.

THERE is at the plantation of Jonathan Jester, living at the Head of Chester, in Kent county, a black horse, about thirteen hands high, has a bald face, one white foot, and appears to have a brand on his near buttock with the letter R. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges.

LAWS of MARYLAND, passed March session, 1780, may be had at the printing-office.

Annapolis, June 6, 1780.

To be SOLD at PUBLIC VENDUE, for current money, at the house of Mr. JOHN BALL, in this city, on Friday the 22d instant, A VALUABLE TAN-YARD, with the improvements, &c.

aw2 SELBY & HOWARD.

Saint Mary's county, April 7, 1780.

A PETITION will be offered to the first session of assembly after this notice has been published eight weeks, for an act to admit the recording and to give effect from the date to a deed executed in this county, by Philip Read and Anne his wife, to George Medley, for a tract of land lying in Medley's Neck, in the county aforesaid.

8 w8 GEORGE MEDLEY.

Prince-George's county, May 16, 1780.

A PETITION will be offered to the first session of assembly, after this notice has been given eight weeks, for an act to admit the recording and to give effect from the date to a deed executed in this county, by Matthew Sparks and Margaret his wife, to John Hammelton, for a tract of land lying in the aforesaid county.

2 w8 JOHN HAMMELTON.

Prince-George's county, St. Paul's parish, March 30, 1780.

WANTED a clergyman of the church of England. Any gentleman who will apply and approved by the vestry, they will engage to give annually twenty thousand pounds of tobacco, and the use of a small glebe.

Signed per order,
8 LEONARD WARING, register.

Charles county, April 17, 1780.

I HAVE in my custody, committed as a runaway, a negro man who calls himself Dover, and says he belongs to Mr. James Lloyd on James river; he says he is about twenty-three years of age, he is a middle sized fellow, remarkably black, and speaks good English: had on, when delivered to me, a striped country cloth jacket and breeches, country linen shirt, one pair white yarn hose, and one pair blackish coloured mixed yarn ditto, a pair of old shoes and an old country cotton cap. His master is desired to pay charges and take him away.

4 BENJAMIN CAWOOD, sheriff.

THERE is at the plantation of Charles Hesletine, living near Chaptico, in St. Mary's county, taken up as a stray, a dark bay horse, about four years old this spring, about 13 hands and an half high, roach backed, branded on the near buttock E P, paces, trots, and gallops. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges. w3

SILVER-TAIL,

WILL cover this season at Tulip Hill, three guineas. Country produce, continental currency will be received at value at the time paid.

Silver-Tail was got by Old Tanner, by Selim, his grand dam by Penton's Arabian, his great grand dam by the Godolphin Arabian, his great great grand dam was Mr. Panton's famous Witherington mare; he is a fine bay fifteen and a half hands high, with great strength and beauty. Good pasturage for mares at five pounds per week, and care will be taken of them.

3 X

Commissioners office, Annapolis, May 8, 1780.

THE honourable general assembly have on the 7th of May resolved, "That the commissioners for stating and settling the public accounts be directed to call on the several collectors to make immediate payment, and in case of neglect, to put their bonds in suit, and also to call on all public debtors to settle their accounts, and in case of neglect, to compel payment without delay;" in conformity thereto the commissioners hereby give notice to the several collectors and public debtors to comply with the said resolution.

3 Signed per order
T. GASAWAY, clerk.

Bladensburg, May 11, 1780.

FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

ABSCONDED from this place last night a certain John Wood, who has been detected in stealing tobacco out of the warehouse here, which he shipped in different craft, chiefly in the night time, to the amount of twenty-nine hogsheads, that have been discovered, and we suspect he has taken more which we have not yet found out.

He is about five feet seven or eight inches high, about twenty-six years of age, round shouldered, has a wrinkled forehead, and a remarkable way of grining when he laughs, has black sore teeth, thick legs, a down therefore look, but assumes the air of a man of business and importance. He has variety of good cloaths made in the most fashionable manner, being much of a coxcomb. He rode a black stallion about 16 hands high, 6 or 7 year old, with a blaze face, and carries himself very high, trots and gallops. A saddle half worn, with a deer-skin seat and a green housing lined with red.

Whoever apprehends the said John Wood and secures him in any jail so that he may be brought to trial, shall receive the above reward,

2 JOHN BEALL, } inspectors.
SAMUEL SHECKLES, }

May 3, 1780.

CHATHAM

STANDS at my plantation this season near Queen-Anne, and will cover mares at three guineas, or continental at the current exchange, with an allowance to the groom of eight dollars.

Chatham is a full blooded horse, got by colonel Fitzhugh's noted horse Regulus, and out of the well known famous mare Ebony. Pasturage gratis for mares at a distance.

JOHN BROGDEN.

N. B. The money is expected when the mares are brought to the horse.

4 X

THE horse SWEEPER, which stood last year at Belair, in Prince-George's county, will be there again this season, from the 10th day of April till the 3d day of July, and will cover at two guineas each mare, and ten dollars continental currency to the groom; the money to be paid before the horse be led out of the stable, and if it should not suit all the persons who may bring mares to pay the guineas, as much continental currency as will at the time purchase them will be taken in lieu thereof. Sweeper is fifteen hands two inches and a half high, was got by Dr. Hamilton's Figure; his dam was got by Othello, which was bred by colonel Tasker, his grand dam by Morton's Traveller, and his great grand dam was colonel Tasker's Selima, got by the Godolphin Arabian.

There will be good pasturage (well fenced in) for mares, at six dollars a week, but I will not be answerable for any that may be lost.

tf 6 JOHN CRAGGS.

Annapolis, May 24, 1780.

To be SOLD by the subscriber,

AN HARPSICOMD in good order, with a complete set of new strings on it.

3 4w ARCHIBALD CHISHOLM.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK and SAMUEL GREEN, at the POST-OFFICE in *Church-Street*.